

# REPLY TO THE ARTICLE

ON MY

“HOMŒOPATHIC DOMESTIC PHYSICIAN,”

CONTAINED IN No. XXXVI. OF THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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THIS article would not have been noticed by me if it had not made its appearance in an otherwise respectable publication. I may be allowed to express my regret, that in matters of Homœopathy any one should resort to inaccurate and flip-pant denunciations in the place of rational and scientific criticism. But to our subject.

With my author's views about the nature, aim and usefulness of Domestic Homœopathic Works, and the propriety or impropriety of publishing such works, I have nothing to do in the present instance. My critic, however, should know, that the greatest physicians have published popular treatises on medicine. I was urged by my patients to publish a similar work, and the sale of several thousand copies proves that they have found it acceptable. Nor does my critic seem to find fault with the general arrangement of my “Domestic;” for, he admits that “*it is as concise and simply arranged as any mother of a family could desire;*” but what troubles my amiable critic is the fact, that *Aconite* is recommended in my “Domestic” as A SPECIFIC remedy for diseases for which Nature has specifically designed it. Let us examine my reviewer's mode of ridiculing good advice a little more closely, following him point by point.

1. "*To take the first thirty diseases mentioned in the book (Hempel's "Domestic"), we find that Aconite is the principal remedy in backache.*" So says my critic, but what say I? Here are my words: "After premising a few pertinent remarks on the nature and origin of a pain in the back, I continue: "The principal remedies for a pain in the back are: *Aconite, Arsenic, Bryonia, Lycopodium, Nux vomica, Sulphur*, and the application of cold water to the spine." Among these agents I recommend *Aconite* as the principal remedy for an aching, sore, dragging, or sharp shooting or lancinating pain when caused by a cold or strain, etc. The indications for the other remedies are likewise given. I request my critic to study my recommendations for the use of *Aconite* a little more carefully than he seems to have done, for he will find them valuable and practical. If he does not know how to use *Aconite* for a "pain in the back," he must admit that this is not my fault; and, instead of ridiculing my advice, he ought to thank me for the information I give him, and which is derived from a thorough and conscientious study of our *Materia Medica*.

2. "*With it he invariably treats cholera morbus.*" And why should I not? Is there another agent in our *Materia Medica* the symptoms of which point as clearly to a similarity with the symptoms of cholera morbus as the tincture of *Aconite*? Among the symptoms of *Aconite* we have: Burning, unquenchable thirst, nausea, vomiting of green bile, diarrhoea preceded or succeeded by nausea and sweat, watery diarrhoea, white stools with red urine; paralysis of the anus, with involuntary discharge of fæces; discharges of black, fetid, fæcal matter; retraction of the umbilicus, burning in the umbilical region, spreading to the pit of the stomach, clutching and tearing pains in the umbilical region, drawing and intolerable cutting pains in the abdomen, agonizing anguish, cramps in the extremities, coldness, collapse of pulse and features, etc., etc. No other remedy combines among its known pathogenetic symptoms so many indications

as a specific agent in the treatment of cholera morbus.—(See the Symptomen- “Codex.”)

3. “*He has given it with the most flattering success in Asiatic cholera.*” So I have, and other physicians have done the same thing, as I could show by abundant testimony. The symptoms which point to the use of Aconite in Asiatic cholera, are the following: I select only those among the whole group which characterize a fully developed state of cholera.

#### HEAD.

Rush of blood to the head, with heat and redness of the face, or else pale face.

Burning headache as if the brain were moved by boiling water.

Headache as if a hot iron were bound round the head.

Paroxysms of vascular erethism in the head, with anxiety.

#### EYES.

Staring eyes.

Distortion and protrusion of the eyes.

The pupils are very much dilated.

The eyes squint upwards.

The eyes have lost all expression.

Sensation as if the eyeballs were pushed into the orbit.

Obscuration of sight.

Black spots and mist before the eyes, sometimes accompanied with vertigo.

Complete blindness.

#### EARS.

Tingling and roaring in the ears.

#### FACE.

Bloated appearance of the face and forehead.

Glowing heat of the face.



Redness and heat of both cheeks, with sensation as if the face had grown large.

Bluish face with black lips.

Contortion of the facial muscles.

Expression of terror and imbecility in the countenance.

Hippocratic countenance.

Alteration of the features.

#### MOUTH.

Black lips.

Dryness of the mouth and tongue.

Paralysis of the tongue.

Burning of the tongue ; it feels swollen, with sensation as if a current of cold air were passing over it.

Numbness in the inner parts of the mouth.

Numbness of the tongue.

Coldness of the tongue.

Inability to speak.

The tongue feels like leather.

#### GASTRIC SYMPTOMS.

Burning, unquenchable thirst.

Qualmishness, nausea, and inclination to vomit, especially in the pit of the stomach.

Vomiting of greenish substances.

He vomits a greenish, gray, watery liquid.

Bilious vomiting.

Vomiting of quantities of mucus.

Burning sensation extending from the stomach to the mouth.

Burning and oppressive pain along the œsophagus as far as the pit of the stomach.

Vomiting accompanied with anxiety .

#### STOMACH.

Pressure as from a load or stone in the region of the stomach and pit of the stomach.

Feeling of weight in the stomach, with constriction in the throat and nausea.

Continual sensation as of a cold stone lying in the stomach, notwithstanding repeated vomitings and frequent stools.

Painful feeling of swelling in the pit of the stomach, accompanied with loss of appetite, and paroxysms of shortness of breath.

#### ABDOMEN.

Retraction of the umbilicus.

Burning in the umbilical region, sometimes spreading to the pit of the stomach.

Pinching, griping and clutching, tearing in the umbilical region.

Drawing pains in the abdomen, extending from both sides to the umbilicus.

Cutting pains in the abdomen, so violent that he screams, tosses about and is almost beside himself.

The abdomen is distended and swollen as in dropsy.

Rumbling and fermentation in the abdomen, sometimes accompanied with a sensation as if the parts were raw.

#### ALVINE EVACUATIONS.

Diarrhœa, preceded or succeeded by nausea and sweat.

Watery diarrhœa.

White stools with red urine.

Paralysis of the anus, with involuntary discharge of fæces.

Discharge of black, fetid, fæcal matters.

#### URINARY ORGANS.

Retention of urine.

Difficult and scanty emission of urine.

Paralysis of the bladder, with involuntary emission of urine.

Enuresis, accompanied with diarrhœa and colic.

Enuresis, accompanied with distortion of the eyes and spasmodic contraction of the feet.

Burning and tenesmus of the neck of the bladder.

## LARYNX AND TRACHEA.

Hoarseness.

Croaking voice.

Feeble voice.

Sensation, as if the trachea had gone to sleep.

Pressure and burning pains along the trachea down to the pit of the stomach.

Rattling and vibratory trembling of the trachea.

## CHEST.

Paroxysms of suffocation, with anxiety.

Sobbing, owing to a retarded circulation of the blood, and a distinctly felt congestion of blood in the lungs.

Stertorous breathing.

Oppression of the chest, increased by deep inspirations.

Weight and feeling of fulness in the chest, with sensation as if the lungs would not expand sufficiently.

Painful pressure from the sternum to the vertebral column.

Feeling of heat in the lungs.

Burning in the lungs, as if some hot fluid would rise into the mouth.

Sensation in the region of the heart, as if a heavy body was lying in its place, changing to an oppressive burning, with a flush of heat over the back.

## BACK AND EXTREMITIES.

Crawling in the spine, as of beetles.

Numbness of the small of the back, extending as far as the lower limbs.

Formication over the back, arms and thighs.

Trembling of the arms and hands.

Pains in the arms and fingers.

The arms hang down powerless, as if paralyzed by blows.

The arms feel chilly and insensible.

Tearing pains in the arms and fingers, with blueness of the hands during the paroxysms of pain.



Weight and debility of the forearms as far as the fingers, which feel as if gone to sleep when taking hold of anything.

Crampy, contractive pain in the hands and fingers.

Numbness, icy coldness and insensibility of one hand.

Stinging and pricking in the arms and fingers.

Insensibility of the palms of the hands.

Icy coldness of both hands.

Tingling pains in the fingers, even while writing.

Hot pricklings in the tips of the fingers.

The legs and feet feel numb, and go to sleep.

Coldness of the feet, particularly the toes.

Trembling of the lower extremities.

Drawing pains in the lower extremities, especially the joints.

Cold creeping on the inner side of the lower extremities.

Icy coldness of the knees, alternating with shooting stitches.

Pain in the calves, as after a cramp.

Hot pricklings in the toes at night.

#### SLEEP AND TEMPERATURE.

Sleeplessness.

Coldness, chilliness and paleness of the fingers, followed by cramps in the soles of the feet and in the calves.

General chilliness, with internal dry heat.

General coldness and stiffness of the body, with open, staring eyes and contracted pupils, which dilate with great difficulty.

Sensation in all the veins, as if the blood were cold, and ceased to circulate.

Creeping chilliness and formication between the shoulders and down the back; the tips of the fingers and the toes are cold, and the nails blue, even in a warm room. See also: "Symptoms of the Sentient Sphere," page 8.

#### PULSE.

Slow pulse.

Pulse small and feeble.

Gradual collapse of the pulse.

## SKIN.

Every part of the body turns black, the body swells up, the eyes and tongue protrude.

Blue spots on the neck and back.

Blueness of the hands during the paroxysms of pain.

Blueness of the toe- and finger nails, with coldness of the extremities.

## GENERAL SYMPTOMS OF THE SENTIENT SPHERE.

Anxious tremor in the whole body, with sensation as if the hands and feet would go to sleep; the tremor is constantly accompanied with a disagreeable feeling of coldness, which is paramount.

Trembling and tingling in the limbs.

Drawing-tearing pains in the limbs.

Numb feeling over the whole body.

Coldness of the extremities, with blueness of the nails of the toes and fingers.

Coldness of the extremities with collapse of pulse.

Sudden sinking of strength.

Fainting fit, after an attack of oppression of the chest; with icy coldness.

These various Aconite-symptoms present a tolerably complete image of cholera in its various stages of congestion, spasm and torpor. Can the remedies which are usually administered in cholera, compete with the Aconite? The last number of the British Journal of Homœopathy contains the report of a case of cholera where eight different remedies were used to combat a group of symptoms that scarcely ever varied, the treatment lasting about three weeks. Among these remedies we find *Digitalis*, *Jatropha Curcas*, and even *Pulsatilla* and *Chamomilla*, God save the mark! What, has it come to this with our superficial symptom-doctors that *Digitalis*, *Pulsatilla* and *Chamomilla* are employed in Asiatic cholera? What have these drugs to do with cholera?



If such treatment as this is detailed as good treatment in an otherwise respectable journal, what can we expect of those who make their first attempts in Homœopathy? Now, let me tell my amiable critic, that, if the tincture of Aconite had been employed in Dr. Kelsall's case, his patient would have been on his legs and in full tide of recovery twenty-four hours after taking the first dose. No other remedy except *Aconite*, corresponds so clearly to the congestive stage of cholera; no other remedy has the burning, and drawing-tearing pains which characterize an attack of cholera; no other remedy points so emphatically to the characteristic spasms and cramps, including the cramps in the *calves and soles of the feet*, and to the paralytic symptoms of cholera; no other remedy has more than the Aconite that remarkable sinking of the temperature of the body, including even the "*cold tongue*;" no remedy exhibits more than Aconite the characteristic discoloration of the skin during the pains, or the alvine discharges pointing to the excessive torpor of the biliary system, which is so essential an ingredient in a group of cholera-symptoms. And last, though not least, what remedy more than Aconite can boast of the perfect correspondence existing between the "*morale*" of a cholera-patient and the changes which large doses of Aconite produce in a person's mind and temperament? I do not recommend the *tincture of Aconite* as "*the*" specific for cholera; but what I assert most emphatically and with all the earnestness of a man who knows, is, that the *tincture of Aconite* is the first and pivotal remedy for cholera, and will, alone and single-handed, effect more good in the treatment of this formidable disease, than all the rest of our *Materia Medica* combined. On this subject I shall be more explicit in my forthcoming work "*on the use of Aconite in spasmodic and inflammatory diseases.*"

Nor is *Aconite* a most valuable specific for cholera alone; it is likewise the first and principal remedy for the disease which, in France and Germany, is so characteristically termed "*Grippe*," and is known to us under the name of "*Influenza.*" It is well known that this disease remained as a

sequel of the cholera after the first appearance of this epidemic. No agent has more fully than Aconite the stinging and burning pains, the pains in the back and spinal column, the drawing and tearing pains in the limbs, the soreness and lameness of the joints, the sensitiveness and soreness of the skin and flesh, and the peculiar chilliness and fever which belong to the "Grippe."

4. "*He always gives it in cholera.*" My own recommendations are as follows: "The principal remedies for cholera are: *Acid. phosph.*, *Rhus t.*, *Calc. carb.*, *Ferr. met.*, *Caustr.*, *Cupr.* If the cholera remained after the allopathic, or in proper homœopathic treatment of cholera, I always gave the tincture of Aconite with unvarying success." Is this true or false? Let the many patients whom I have cured by this means, in a far shorter time than is generally the case, testify.

5. "*It is the remedy best adapted for constipation.*" In his zeal to quote me wrong, my critic always distorts my text. After some general remarks about constipation, I proceed: "The remedies, which I use with the best success for *these forms* of constipation (meaning the constipation of hæmorrhoidal and hypochondriac individuals) are: *Aconite*, *Sulphur*, *Nux v.* and *Staphisagria*. In some cases, when the bilious symptoms are very prominent, or when the patients are very nervous, subject to rushes of blood, acid stomach, palpitation of the heart, pulsations, weak or lame backs, neuralgic pains, wakefulness, unpleasant dreams, etc., I give from 3 to 4 doses of Aconite daily, sometimes prescribing the globules and then again the tincture." If my critic treats such cases otherwise, then he treats them wrong, that's all.

6. "*The principal remedy in diarrhœa and dysentery.*" Here again my critic betrays his ignorance of Homœopathy by ridiculing the use of Aconite in those forms of diarrhœa



which I have clearly defined. I recommend *the tincture of Aconite* as "the principal remedy for diarrhœa caused by a cold, by an unpleasant emotion, such as anger, chagrin, care, or by eating something which did not agree with one." And I define the symptoms of the Aconite-diarrhœa. "The Aconite-diarrhœa is generally watery, colorless, or else yellowish, brownish, greenish, blackish; without smell, or else fetid, sour; burning, smarting, or without any sensation, with or without griping, urging, etc.; the discharges are sometimes accompanied or preceded by a dull, heavy pain in the bowels, indicating venous congestion." Sensible and thinking physicians would thank me for such indications rather than to sneer at them. As regards the suggestions which I furnish concerning the curative virtues of Aconite in dysentery, all I can say is, that the man who undertakes to ridicule them as my critic does, cannot be considered fitly prepared to practice our art.

7. "*The best remedy in dyspepsia.*" Not quite, Sir; my words are: "The best remedies for dyspepsia are: *Aconite*, *Arsenic*, *Sulphur*, and *Hepar s.*; *Mercurius* may likewise prove useful; *Nux v.* does very little good." And then I furnish the particular indications.

It is too fatiguing to wade through the whole mass of flip-pant nonsense which my critic has seen fit to perpetrate FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO HIMSELF! Passing over his sneers concerning the curative powers of Aconite in piles, acute indigestion, worms, discharges from the ears, inflammations, deafness and roaring in the ears, affections of the organs of sight, all of which constitute diseases for which every intelligent homœopath uses the Aconite with the most signal success, I will close my remarks by devoting a few words to the use of *Aconite* in neuralgic affections. It is here, where medical treatment has hitherto so signally failed, that the homœopath has it in his power to effect the most astonishing cures by the use of Aconite. No drug has those Protean forms of digging, boring, tearing, snapping, screwing, stinging, lancing,



burning pains and that exquisite soreness to the touch which Aconite can boast of. But then a man must know how to use the *Aconite* in order to cure neuralgia; my critic's knowledge seems to be deficient on that score. Your *Cannabis*, your *Pulsatilla*, your *Lycopodium*, your *Capsicum*, and God knows what all, are utterly useless in true neuralgia (*tic douloureux*), and the few remedies which are sometimes used with more or less success in neuralgia, must blush to be mentioned by the side of Aconite. As regards the cases which Dr. Quin reported in some of the first numbers of the British Journal of Homœopathy, all that can be said of them is, that a critical analysis would show that the remedies which were used in these cases, had no claim whatsoever to the results obtained.

I have now done with my critic for the present. He accuses me of recommending *Aconite* for thirty diseases; if he turns to HARTMANN'S CHIEF HOMŒOPATHIC REMEDIES, he will find that Hartmann recommends it for fifty, and *Mercurius sol.* for upwards of sixty. And HERING, whose Domestic Physician has done more to popularize Homœopathy in this country than any other work, and is deservedly recognized as the best work of its kind, recommends it, not for thirty but for upwards of one hundred and thirty diseases. See Hering's Domestic, page 405 of the 5th American edition.

The fact is, my critic has been very inconsiderate, superficial and ungenerous in his criticism. Let me assure him that I am a true-hearted and devoted friend of our cause, and well willing and able to bear criticism; but then it must be respectful and scientific criticism, and none of those arrant and flippant sneers to which no intelligent writer resorts.

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